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Diana T Fritz 06/05/2007 04:24:12 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

January 07, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 46 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR  
Captions: None  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ, MEPI, AND DEMOCRACY IN THE GULF  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00046

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: AMB DCM POL ECON  
Laser1:  
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: ADCM:TWILLIAMS  
DRAFTED: PAO:TPONCE  
CLEARED: PAO:KVANDEVATE

VZCZCADI388  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR  
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC  
DE RUEHAD #0046/01 0070451  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 070451Z JAN 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7733  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0548  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0618  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000046

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP (LMALENAS), NEA/PPD (JDAVIES), NEA/P  
(ACASPER), INR  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ, MEPI, AND DEMOCRACY IN THE GULF

1. SUMMARY: UAE MEDIA FOCUSED ON PRESIDENT BUSH'S RECENT SPEECH  
AT FORT HOOD MILITARY BASE IN TEXAS. "AL KHALEEJ" NOTED THE  
FACTS ON THE GROUND PROVE PRESIDENT BUSH'S ALLEGATIONS ON IRAQ

HAVING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ARE NOT TRUE. WRITERS AND OP-EDS ALSO COMMENTED ON MEPI IN THE ARABIC DAILIES. DR. SHAMLAN AL EISA WARNED IN AN "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIAL THAT GULF STATES MUST NOT DELAY COMPREHENSIVE REFORMS. EGYPTIAN WRITER JALAL AREF DESCRIBES MEPI IN "AL BAYAN" AS A COMEDY, AND A PROOF THAT AMERICANS - DESPITE THEIR ARROGANCE - ENJOY SOME SENSE OF HUMOUR. MEANWHILE, IN "AL BAYAN," COLUMNIST AHMED AMRABI BELIEVES THE U.S. WILL LOSE ITS WAR AGAINST ISLAM AND MUSLIMS. CALLING FOR A CHANGE OF THE "MOUNTAINS OF HATRED INTO TOWERS OF LOVE," DR. MURAD RAGHEB HANNA URGED THE U.S. TO SPEND THE \$200 BILLION ALLOCATED FOR A WAR ON IRAQ ON THE POOR WHO NEED IT MOST.

12. ARGUING AGAINST PRESIDENT BUSH'S DESCRIPTION OF IRAQ AS A THREAT TO THE U.S., SHARJAH-BASED BAN-ARAB "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 1/5:

"... FACTS PROVE THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S ALLEGATIONS ARE NOT TRUE. WHAT HAPPENS ON THE GROUND TOTALLY CONTRADICTS HIS SPEECH. THE U.S. AFTER 9/11 BECAME A THREAT TO IRAQ, THE REGION, AND EVEN THE WHOLE WORLD. THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ANNOUNCED RECENTLY IS A CLEAR STRATEGY OF WAR AGAINST ANYONE WHO STANDS IN ITS (THE U.S.) WAY OR ENDANGERS ITS INTERESTS."

13. COMMENTING ON THE REACTION OF GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL STATES TO A NEGATIVE U.S. MEDIA CAMPAIGN AND MEPI, DR. SHAMLAN AL EISA WROTE IN ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-OFFICIAL "AL ITTIHAD" ON 1/5:

"... THE GULF STATES NEITHER ABSORB THE NEXT AMERICAN STEPS NOR UNDERSTAND THE TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS DEMOCRACY... WE, IN THE GULF, PAY A HIGH PRICE FOR THE WRONG POLICIES OF OUR GOVERNMENTS AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF SECURITY AND DEFENSE. BUT WHEN THERE IS A REAL THREAT, OUR COUNTRIES ARE UNABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND RELY ON OTHERS TO DO THAT ... IT IS OBVIOUS IRAQ WILL BE QUALIFIED TO BECOME THE MINARET OF DEMOCRACY IN THE WHOLE ARAB WORLD AND THE BASE OF THE POLICY OF CHANGE. QATAR, BAHRAIN, AND OMAN WILL BE THE FOCUS OF THE U.S. AFTER BAGHDAD... THE GULF STATES ARE NOW STANDING AT A CROSSROADS, WHETHER TO TAKE THE AMERICAN TRAIN AND CONTROL THE EXPECTED DAMAGES, OR STEP ASIDE AND BEAR THE IMPACT OF A HIT BY THE COMING CHANGE."

14. DESCRIBING MEPI AS A HUMOUROUS PLAY ON WORDS, DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR OF EGYPTIAN "AKHABR AL YOUM" WROTE IN DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED "AL BAYAN" ON 1/5:

"THE \$29-MILLION 'COMEDY' OF AN INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED BY SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL TO TEACH ARABS THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (I DON'T KNOW WHY IT IS NOT \$30 MILLION) WINS OVER THE COMEDIES WE WATCH DURING RAMADAN. IT ALSO PROVES AMERICANS - DESPITE THEIR ARROGANCE - ENJOY SOME SENSE OF HUMOUR ... WHEN WASHINGTON TALKS ABOUT PARTNERSHIP (ESPECIALLY THESE DAYS), THE MATTER IS A POLITICAL COMEDY. WASHINGTON REFUSES TO HAVE A PARTNERSHIP EVEN WITH ITS CLOSES ALLY IN DECISION-MAKING. THUS, IT WILL NOT VOLUNTEER TO MAKE ARABS ITS PARTNERS... THE U.S. PRESIDENT FACILITATES THE MOST HORRIBLE MASSACRES AND GIVES ALL U.S. SUPPORT TO SHARON AND HIS GANG TO PRACTICE HIS TERROR ON PALESTINIANS AND ARABS, WHO THEN SHOULD BE THE FIRST STEP TO JOIN POWELL'S SCHOOL OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ... WHERE IS THE AMERICAN TALK ABOUT DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FROM WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE ISRAEL? WHY DOESN'T WASHINGTON ACT QUICKLY AS IT DID IN THE CASE OF SA'ADUL DIN IBRAHIM, WHEN MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION PERSONALLY PUT ALL ITS PRESSURE ON EGYPT, FREEZING ECONOMIC AID, AND INITIATING A MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SENTENCE."

15. CLAIMING THE U.S. WILL LOSE ITS 'BATTLE' AGAINST ISLAM, AHMED AMRABI WROTE IN "AL BAYAN" ON 1/5:

"... WITH THE ABSENCE OF AN ALTERNATIVE THOUGHT SUITABLE FOR ARAB AND MUSLIM YOUTH, THE AMERICAN WAR AGAINST ISLAM UNDER THE SLOGAN 'WAR ON TERRORISM' WILL ONLY ATTRACT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO ISLAM. ISLAM IS NOT A STUPID FAITH AND THE QURAN IS NOT MERE PREACHING ... A MUSLIM WORKS FOR THIS LIFE AND THE LIFE AFTER... CONSEQUENTLY, HOW CAN THE U.S. HOPE TO SUMMARIZE ITS WAR AGAINST ISLAM AND MUSLIMS INTO ONLY ONE WORD, 'TERRORISM'."

16. ARGUING THE U.S. IMPOSES ITS PRINCIPLES ON ARABS, ALGERIAN WRITER DR. KHAIRUL DEEN AL AYEB SAID IN "AL BAYAN" ON 1/6:

"... THE TRUTH IS THAT THE U.S. WANTS TO ISOLATE ANY COUNTRIES DEFYING ITS PRINCIPLES BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. FURTHERMORE, IT (THE U.S.) WANTS TO IMPOSE THESE PRINCIPLES ON ARAB SOCIETIES, ESPECIALLY CONSERVATIVE ONES LIKE SAUDI ARABIA ... ANY SANE PERSON COMPREHENDS THE BUILD UP OF ARMIES IS NOT TO STRIKE IRAQ ... THE EQUATION IS SIMPLY EITHER COUNTRIES ADAPT TO THE NEW WORLD ORDER, OR THEY WILL BE BESIEGED AND PARALYZED UNTIL THEY YIELD BY FORCE TO U.S. ORDERS ... ALL ARABS MUST MAKE A QUICK DECISION, AS OUR DESTINY AND EXISTENCE BECOME A SUBJECT TO BARGAINING. THE FEAR IS THAT WE END UP AT THE MARGIN OF THE ARRANGED NEW WORLD ORDER. THE REAL FEAR IS THAT, ONE DAY, WE PERISH IN THE SAME WAY AS PREVIOUS CIVILIZATIONS."

17. UNDER THE HEADLINE "HOW CAN THE U.S. BE AN EMPIRE OF GOOD?" DR. MURAD RAGHEB HANNA WROTE IN "AL ITTIHAD" ON 1/6:

"... THE U.S. ALLOCATES MONEY TO FINANCE A WAR, WHICH MAY COST \$200 BILLION ... THE U.S. CAN UTILIZE THIS HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY - IF IT DESIRES - TO CIVILIZE THE ENTIRE WORLD AND CHANGE MOUNTAINS OF HATRED INTO TOWERS OF LOVE, ESPECIALLY IF IT FEEDS MILLIONS OF HUNGRY CHILDREN IN THE WORLD. THIS AMOUNT IS ENOUGH TO SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS OF POOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WHICH SUFFER FROM THE TERRORISM OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN LUXURY ON THIS EARTH. THE U.S. CAN WIN THE LOVE, APPRECIATION, AND RESPECT OF THE ENTIRE WORLD, IF IT CARES FOR THE LIFE OF THOSE CHILDREN, INSTEAD OF KILLING THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ."

WAHBA